

**Blue Grass
Spring 2003**

Contact Us

**Blue Grass
Chemical Stockpile
Outreach Office**

370 Highland Park Drive
Suite 2
Richmond, KY 40475
(859) 626-8944

Outreach Office Hours

Monday–Friday
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Other hours by appointment

**Blue Grass
Chemical Activity
Public Affairs Officer**

(859) 625-6897

**Blue Grass Army Depot
Public Affairs Officer**

(859) 625-6221

Alternative technology chosen to destroy the Blue Grass chemical weapons stockpile

In February 2003, neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation, known as “SCWO,” was designated as the technology for full-scale pilot testing for destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot.

Department of Defense (DOD) officials approved neutralization followed by SCWO, after consideration of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons at Blue Grass Army Depot (FEIS), and conclusions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for selection of a technology.

The Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) is now authorized to move forward with a request for proposal soliciting contractors to submit proposals to design, construct, pilot test, operate and close a full-scale pilot test facility at the

depot where two percent of the nation’s chemical weapons stockpile is stored, and to complete all NEPA requirements to enable construction.

The ACWA program also is directed to accelerate destruction of the Blue Grass stockpile, including streamlining the source selection process and optimizing the environmental permitting process.

DOD designated neutralization followed by SCWO as the agency-preferred alternative in November 2002, which was published in the FEIS. The evaluation process for this decision considered the incineration process and three alternative technologies: two versions of neutralization followed by SCWO and electrochemical oxidation with silver and nitric acid.

Copies of the FEIS and related documents are available at the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, located at 370 Highland Park Drive, Suite 2, in Richmond and on the World Wide Web at www.cma.army.mil.



A planning meeting to discuss the Blue Grass Chemical Weapons Community Forum was held at the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office in February. A variety of community representatives attended. See story on page 3.

"Our objective is to remove the threat of chemical weapons from your community."

*- Michael Parker,
Acting Director of the
Chemical Materials
Agency (Provisional)*

Michael Parker named Acting Director of the Chemical Materials Agency

Mr. Michael A. Parker was recently named Acting Director of the Chemical Materials Agency (Provisional), headquartered at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. As the Acting Director, he is the executing agent for the acquisition functions of plant construction, systemization and the operational functions of chemical munitions storage and destruction. He assumed his current position on February 18, 2003.

Mr. Parker previously served as the Deputy to the Commander of the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM). Mr. Parker was recognized for demonstrating unparalleled leadership in restructuring America's overall chemical and biological defense program. He was instrumental in the formation of the U.S. Army SBCCOM to oversee research, development and acquisition of chemical and biological defense equipment and to ensure worldwide commitment to chemical weapons demilitarization and compliance with the 1993 Chemical Warfare Convention.

He led a panel of senior leaders dedicated to standardizing chemical and biological defense equipment across the Department of Defense and within NATO. His personal initiative and innovative thinking led to the development of new Joint Service procedures for horizontal integration and coordination of program decisions, and to addressing Congress with a single, proactive voice.

Mr. Parker's efforts culminated in a Joint Service Agreement for unified management of the chemical and biological defense programs of all the Military Departments. The Agreement implements Public Law 103-160 and ensures that the chemical and biological defense mission area is viewed respectfully to counter the proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction.

In December 1996, he was appointed Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment, a Congressionally mandated program examining chemical weapon destruction processes.

Mr. Parker previously served as the Technical Director of the U.S. Army Chemical Research, Development and Engineering Center (now known as the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center). He also served as Acting Project Manager



Mr. Michael Parker, who serves as Acting Director of the Chemical Materials Agency (Provisional) and as the Program Manager for the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) program, recently spoke to Berea Chamber of Commerce members at the Chamber's March luncheon.

Mr. Parker said that ACWA is currently building a considerable level of momentum at the Blue Grass Army Depot. "Our objective is to remove the threat of chemical weapons from your community," Parker said. "In the coming years, we expect to develop a solid partnership with the community...for the community to have access to us, and for citizens to make their desires and wishes known."

for Binary Munitions and Chemical Munitions and as Science Advisor to the Commanding General, U.S. Army, Japan.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Mr. Parker holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy. He also attended the University of Michigan and Johns Hopkins University Schools of Engineering. Among his awards and decorations are the Army's highest civilian honorary award, the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, the Army Research and Development Achievement Award, the Army Commander's Medal, the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award, and the Presidential Rank Award.

Community Forum allows citizens to shape the future of public involvement

A forum to discuss community involvement in the destruction of chemical weapons stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) was held in Richmond on March 24.

The forum, sponsored by project leaders at the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) program and the BGAD, was designed to exchange information and solicit public opinion on project issues. A diverse group of approximately 35 Blue Grass community members expressed an interest in the March forum and/or were selected to ensure that various aspects of the community were represented. The meeting was also open to the public.

Madison County Judge Executive Kent Clark attended the forum. "It is very important that each and every resident of Madison County is involved in this process," Clark said.

Another attendee, Col. Martin Jacoby, reflected a similar viewpoint. "As commander of Blue Grass Army Depot, I see this as an ongoing opportunity to work closely with the residents of Madison County," Jacoby said.

It is the experience of the ACWA program that soliciting early input from community members most likely to be affected by government decisions leads to better decision-making and the potential for quicker, safer implementation with community support.

By law, the Department of Defense is responsible for all final decisions in implementing the chemical weapons destruction program, however, ongoing public involvement is welcomed and encouraged. The ACWA program will continue to make public and regulatory involvement significant components of its management approach to ensure the chemical weapons at the BGAD are destroyed as safely and quickly as possible.

If you are interested in learning more about upcoming public involvement opportunities, please contact the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944.

"It is very important that each and every resident of Madison County is involved in this process."

*—Kent Clark,
Madison County
Judge Executive*



Madison County Judge Executive Kent Clark (right) discusses plans for the Community Forum with Bill Pehlivanian, Deputy Program Manager for the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment program.

Citizens' Advisory Commission and Richmond Chamber of Commerce host Industry Night



On January 13, the Kentucky Citizens' Advisory Commission and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce co-hosted an Industry Night. Industry Night was provided to give local businesses and citizens an opportunity to learn more about future opportunities that may be available during the chemical weapons destruction project at Blue Grass Army Depot. Approximately 150 people attended the meeting, including a variety of local business representatives, elected officials and program affiliates.

Department of Defense (DOD) representatives provided attendees with an overview of program milestones, and participants were also given an opportunity to network with the two technology vendor teams who seek to build and operate the destruction facility.

The DOD plans to award a contract to one of the competing technology vendor teams this summer. Following the award of that contract, other networking opportunities for community businesses and local citizens will be made available.

Top photo: Representatives from the Bechtel Parsons team were available to interact with interested citizens throughout the Industry Night event.



Bottom photo: A table-top display offered by KBR provided Industry Night attendees with an overview of the team's qualifications.